GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2158
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
CUTTING DOWN MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES BY GSI .
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to cut down work relating to mineral exploration, mapping and drilling as being done by the Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, whether there is any other organisation except GSI to find out and identify disaster-prone zone and mineral deposits;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have a plan to reduce the Staff Strength in view of shrinking the ambit of work in GSI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a), (b) & (c) : No, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the premier national earth science organisation which has contributed immensely to national development activities during the last 150 years. In view of the post liberalization scenario, which has thrown open the mineral sector for foreign direct investment both in exploration as well as exploitation of minerals, it is evident that that there has to be a change in the role of GSI in this sector. However, GSI will continue its mapping programmes to update and understand active geological processes affecting man and his environment. GSI remains the nodal agency for conducting micro-seismic studies for all major earth quakes, prepare probabilistic natural hazard map and seismo-tectonic evaluation of the country. It will continue to assess and augment mineral and energy sources on-land and offshore by airborne marine and ground surveys.

Other organisations like MECL, State DGMs undertake studies of mineral deposits. IMD and WIHG (DST) also identify disaster pron areas.

(d) & (e) : The reduction in staff strength of GSI will be as per the policies of the Government.Expenditure Reforms Commission has made some recommendations in this regard which are being studied.